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WATER POLLUTION CASE AGAINST SACRAMENTO DEVELOPER SETTLED BY REGIONAL WATER BOARD AND DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SACRAMENTO—The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Department of Fish and Game have reached a \$591,000 settlement resolving water quality pollution problems allegedly caused by Angelo Tsakopoulos' AKT Development Corporation. Tsakopoulos, a Sacramento-area developer, settled the case after a two-year investigation by the state.

The alleged violations stemmed from the construction of the Anatolia Development, which is part of the Sunrise Douglas Community Plan in Rancho Cordova. The settlement resolves the state's allegations that AKT Development Corporation cleared and graded the 527-acre construction site without properly controlling erosion caused by stormwater runoff. The state alleged that water quality violations had occurred during the winter of 2002 through the spring of 2004. The alleged violations included discharges of turbid stormwater, sediment and a chemical flocculent that was designed to treat the stormwater to tributaries of Morrison Creek, and the spraying of turbid water into a vernal pool preserve.

The settlement calls for AKT to pay \$300,000 to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, \$73,000 to an environmental fund administered by the Department of Fish and Game, and \$218,000 to the Regional Water Board, Department of Fish and Game, and the Attorney General's Office, which represented the state agencies.

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy is a non-profit private land trust dedicated to the preservation of open space. The Conservancy will use \$225,000 of the \$300,000 to develop a management plan and public education at the Deer Creek Hills preserve, and will use the remaining \$75,000 to help acquire additional lands in the Sacramento region for environmental preservation.

"Californians want clean water. This settlement underscores the importance of water quality and our construction stormwater program, and we hope that others involved in the construction industry will continue to improve their efforts to protect our waterways," said Bob Schneider, Chair of the Central Valley Regional Water Board.

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2-2-2-2-Water Pollution Settlement

“We are very pleased that Mr. Tsakopoulos has settled this case, so that our limited enforcement resources can be directed to other matters. I want to extend my personal thanks to Mr. Tsakopoulos for working to avoid future construction stormwater issues, and for working with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy to carry out a supplemental environmental project that will provide both short-term and long-term benefits to the Sacramento region,” Schneider said.

The settlement will not be finalized until after the close of a 30-day public comment period.

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